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# Orchids

presented by

## THE ORCHID HOUSE

BETTY POWELL

NORRIS POWELL

*Importers and Brokers*

*Home of Many Fine Orchids*

CATTLEYAS-CYPRIPEDIUMS

CYMBIDIUMS

VANDAS

SEED TO SPECIMEN PLANTS

9433

~~2009~~ EAST BROADWAY

TEMPLE CITY, CALIFORNIA

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N EARLY EVERYONE who grows plants, at one time or another gets the urge to grow an orchid or two, and if they knew how easy it is to attain success in orchid culture there certainly would be many more persons growing the rather rugged plants both for pleasure (not any hobby holds as much interest) and for profit, since the initial cost is nearly the only expense. Some bloom twice a year and some of the florist's type, the *Cattleya* (pronounced "Catt'la-ya"), produce as many as seven flowers at one time. The plants, after attaining blooming size, with proper care will bloom at least once a year for many, many years and will increase in size as they grow older. Plants can be purchased as seedlings for as low as 20¢ each for plants nearly two years old. You can also purchase divisions of large plants and, of course, a large plant or so for occasional flowers to keep the interest up. Upkeep is small, since the plants require water only about once a week and the material in which they are potted, usually osmunda fern root fibre, must be renewed only about every two years.

The initial cost would be for a glass house of some sort with a heating arrangement, and some plants. The most generally accepted heat is gas which is thermostatically controlled and which is used to heat water piped under the benches in the greenhouse. All the orchids in our display will stand a minimum of about 50°, usually 55° at night. The temperature often rises to 100° in summer, when the heater can be turned off entirely. We usually turn the heater on about October 1st and turn it off in April or May.

Some method of shading should be used so that the plants will receive from 40% to 60% of full sunlight. This can be attained by using roller blinds, lath or by white-washing the glass or painting the glass with a very light coat of a mixture of white lead and kerosene.

The glass house should be provided with ventilation of some kind so that the plants are given fresh air but are not in a draft. This condition can be arrived at by placing a ventilator in the top of the house on the down-wind side or away from the prevailing wind.

The humidity necessary for successful orchid growing is usually arrived at by watering the plants when they dry out. Of course, this watering period would vary between localities on the coast where less watering is necessary. Because of the more arid condition in the inland areas, water will have to be given more often.

Automatic controls can be installed to raise and lower the ventilators and to control the heater and fan, where it is necessary to install one for cooling the house.

The best way to learn about culture is by visiting a commercial grower. There you will pick up more in a short while than by reading all the books on culture.

Of all the many genera of orchids (over 500), one of the finest and fast becoming most popular is the *VANDA*. A few of the more worthwhile we will list, briefly describe and also list a few hybrids that we have in 2" fernwood cubes. These hybrids should flower in 3 to 5 years and have 2 or 3 sprays each year; in fact some are virtually always in flower.

*VANDA SANDERIANA* is the "king" of them all. It grows from one to three feet tall, with leaves from 12 to 15 inches long, and has seven to 15 flowers to the spike. The flowers are large, nearly 5" across, and almost flat. The upper sepal is a soft rose suffused with white; the lower two are larger and are a tawny-yellow, crossed and recrossed with prominent sanguineous-red veins. The petals are smaller than the sepals and are colored like the upper sepal but with a tawny-red blotch near the base. The lip is comparatively small but remarkable in structure. The basal half is concave, not spurred, and is a dull tawny-yellow streaked with red; the front part is bluntly cordate, recurved apically, colored chocolate-purple, with three prominent ridges. (Description taken from Sander's Orchid Guide.) It blooms late summer and winter. Although the plant has been actively collected recently in the jungles of Cotabato Province of Mindanao in the Philippines, it is still very scarce. *From \$20.00 up.*

*VANDA COERULEA* grows on an erect stem up to four feet tall. It is truly the most magnificent of them all. The flowers range in color from white to deep blue and are three to four inches across, with six or more flowers on the spike. We grow ours near the glass, and feed by using well-rotted chicken manure. We also keep them somewhat drier in winter. *From \$5.00 bare root.*

*VANDA LUZONICA* resembles *V. suavis* and *V. tricolor* in habit, although the roots are somewhat larger. There are usually up to 12 flowers to the spike, each flower measuring up to 3" across. They are very lovely, being pure white with crimson dots on the tips of the petals and minute red dots on the sepals. The lip is almost entirely crimson.

*VANDA SUAVIS* is a fine species. It grows up to five feet tall, with leaves from 12 to 15 inches long. It has six to 14 flowers to the spike and the flowers measure two to three inches across and are fragrant. The sepals and petals are white, spotted and barred with purple, with a purplish suffusion. The lip is rose-purple. *V. suavis* is often taken for *V. tricolor*, which resembles this orchid and may be a form of *V. suavis*. The plants respond to feeding and should be splashed with water on bright, warm days. *From \$5.00 up.*

*Almost monthly we receive importations from Hawaii and the Far East, where the rare and fine DENDROBIUMS and VANDAS originate.*



3 1/2" to 4" pots  
250 up

## VANDA SEEDLINGS IN 2" FERNWOOD CUBES

SANDERIANA  
ROTHSCHILDIANA  
MANILA  
CAROLINE ROBINSON x SANDERIANA  
CLARA FISHER x MANILA  
ELLEN NOA x ROTHSCCHILDIANA  
ELLEN NOA x SANDERIANA  
TATZERI (Sanderiana x tricolor)  
MARY FOSTER x ROTHSCCHILDIANA  
ELLEN NOA (Dearei x Sanderiana)  
MARY FOSTER x ELLEN NOA  
PAKI x SANDERIANA  
HERZIANA x SANDERIANA  
MARY FOSTER x DEAREI  
MEM. T. IWASAKI x SANDERIANA  
ROTHSCCHILDIANA x HERZIANA  
FLAMMEROLLE x ROTHSCCHILDIANA  
CLARA FISHER x MANILA  
CAROLINE ROBINSON x SANDERIANA

One of the best and most attractive ways to grow Vandas is to use pots made from the trunks of tree ferns that grow to great size on the "Big Island" of the Hawaiian group (some grow over 40 feet high and 15 feet in girth). These large tree ferns are cut and stored in kilns to dry, which requires in the larger pieces up to two years, and are then processed or shaped for use and shipped to the mainland. The beautiful, rich, natural brown-hued fernwood blends harmoniously with any setting.

Due to an ability to absorb and release moisture when required, plus natural qualities of priceless plant acid content which feed and nurture plant life, orchid plants thrive very well in this fernwood. Roots really grow into the fernwood which is actually the most porous orchid pot we have ever seen.

All sizes and shapes are on sale at our nursery, where visitors are always welcome.

We stock ORCHID SUPPLIES for the amateur as well as the commercial grower. We are Southern California distributors for what is recognized to be one of the finest *orchid sprays* on the market today. We have what is considered by many to be the best *osmunda fibre* in this area, and at a very reasonable price. Also, we stock *Taylor thermometers* in four or five different sizes. For Cymbidium hobbyists — *Sudbury Soil Test kits*. For heating, we have heaters and thermostats and information for installing.

ORCHID BOOKS — "HOME ORCHID GROWING" by Rebecca T. Northern at \$6.00 and "ORCHIDS AND HOW TO GROW THEM" by Adelaide C. Willoughby at \$3.50.

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